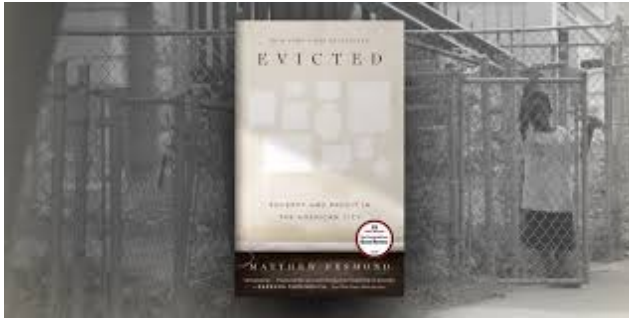


Why should our mostly comfortable congregation care about eviction?



In most years, tens of thousands of Mecklenburg County families are kicked out of their homes as the number of renters grows and rents rise. Evictions, whether done through the court system or informally, perpetuate poverty in several ways:

- Families may lose possessions and jobs when they lose their homes.
- An eviction record can make it harder to find new homes.
- Families with children are the most likely to be evicted.

But this year the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in what has been called “a recipe for an avalanche of evictions.” The state’s moratorium on evictions through the pandemic is over. Eviction courts have reopened. Unemployment remains high and Federal benefits are running out.

Surprisingly, there is some good news: Mecklenburg County has been able to stave off evictions in about half the cases thanks to emergency rental assistance and cooperation among Legal Aid attorneys, landlords and social service agencies. But can they keep this up? What comes next?

The Plowshares group is offering the congregation two real opportunities to learn more about this timely issue:

1) Join the Plowshares group’s discussion of the book **“Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City ” by Matthew Desmond on Thursday, October 15 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.** This Pulitzer-winning book follows 8 Milwaukee families involved in the process of eviction in 2008 and puts real faces on what many of us have only read about.

2) Join the Plowshares **Living Room Learning webinar on Thursday, October 22 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** A panel representing all sides of the eviction process will explain how they work together to face the crisis head on.

- Tommy Holderness: FPC member, Legal Aid of North Carolina Attorney
- Floyd Davis, FPC member, President and CEO, Community LinkNC
- Tchernavia Montgomery, Chief Program Officer, Crisis Assistance Ministry
- Kim Graham, Executive Director of the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association

You may sign up for one or both events by emailing Nan Clarke at nan.r.clarke@gmail.com.